

In the Claims:

OK to Enter
RCJ
11/24/03

1. (currently amended) A process for inhibiting the fouling of a substrate in a fouling environment, which comprises forming on the substrate, before exposure to the environment, a coating comprising a single film-forming polymer, the film-forming polymer consisting essentially of film-forming polymer (A) carrying unreacted curable silicon-containing functional groups providing latent reactivity, and thereafter applying a layer comprising a curable polymeric fouling-inhibiting material (B) and bonding the applied layer to the coating by a condensation curing reaction involving the unreacted functional groups thereon.

2. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the curable silicon-containing functional groups of (A) are pendant functional groups.

3. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the silicon-containing functional groups are curable by virtue of one or more curable functional groups selected from the group consisting of aliphatic, aromatic and araliphatic ether and oxime groups, which groups may be substituted or unsubstituted.

4. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the curable silicon-containing functional groups are groups of the formula



in which the groups represented by R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 may be the same or different and each may comprise an ether or ester group, and in which one or two of R_1 to R_3 may represent hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group.

5. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the silicon-containing functional groups are curable by virtue of one or more oxime groups of the formula